My dear Charley Rome 21 Dec 1869

Tis with pleasure that I am able to tell you of my recovery from rheumatism & of being in real good health, some little weakness remains & my fingers are crooked yet I can play on my piano a little, walk from 2 to 3 miles, write, paint & am equal to all my duties & something more

So I wont grumble for to have been recovered from 3 mortal illnesses & so rare a thing that I have now the great enjoyment of returning health, which is a pleasure almost worth being ill for

I hope this will find you well I heard of your family & yours by from dear

Caroline

whom no doubt had also given an accou
of me.—

For the 3.d time I went to Bath to
the mineral waters which with the good
of the mountain air set me up nobly & I
may hope to hold up for some time

But we have had continued rain for
more than a month & this has tried to
make a dish clout of me but without
effect

I am in my usual activity with my
inordinate passion for doing good & plenty
of means for doing it which helps to keep me
alive & kicking

Just now I am engaged in establishe
the Baths Lin warehouses at 2 pence as in
London & find good disposition towards
it so that I may hope for a Market

a bath at last which would have cured my rheumatism

With so much repose & indulgence as an invalid I have become slow & had much ado to get into my Uniform & ev[e]ry clothes all of which had to be let out & even with that I get in them very awkwardly & look ungainly

And is it your case that you have also blown out your jacket? or is your work too hard that night? Tom I know blows out also when we meet we shall occupy a larger English space — Ah! when we meet? when will that be? for I seem as though I should never be able to stand a long journey again, not that the shine is all taken out of me but at my age one naturally inclines to repose & journeying uncomfortably, fortunately